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MESSAGE

OF THE

GOVERNOR

OF THE

STATE OF DESERET.

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To the Senate and House of Representatives Convened in General Assembly:—

Gentlemen:—Permit me to congratulate you upon the favorable circumstances under which, through the blessings of Israel's God, you are again permitted to assemble in your Legislative capacity.

So soon as practicable, after your adjournment on the 17th of April last, our Senators elect, the Hons. William H. Hooper and George Q. Cannon, proceeded to Washington, presented to Congress the Constitution and accompanying Memorials, and, in connection with the Hon. John M. Bernhisel, Representative elect and our Territorial Delegate, labored assiduously for the admission of Deseret into the family of States. But Congress, during its last session, was heavily burdened with duties pertaining to the conduct of the war then and still being prosecuted for the restoration of the Union, and, so far as I have been advised, took no action upon our petition.

On the 22d ultimo the Hon. James M. Ashley of Ohio, Chairman of the House Committee on Territories, reported enabling Acts, one for each Territory (as is required by said Committee) for the admission of Nebraska, Colarado, Utah and Nevada, which, on motion of Mr. Ashley, were referred to the Committee on Territories. This action clearly indicates a wise abandonment by the House of the former irrelevant question in regard to population, and justly rests the admission of a Territory upon its capability for self-government and its Republican form of Constitution. The Hons. W. H. Hooper and J. M. Bernhisel are now in Washington diligently lending their efforts toward a favorable action upon our petition for admission or

the passage of an enabling Act, as their judgment and the circumstances may most favor.

Beyond cavil it is the inherent and indefeasible right of American citizens to enjoy the untrameled privilege of self-government,—still we prefer, as hitherto, to conform with long-established usages, trusting that even those usages will soon concede to us the rights of self-government so long withheld. Be this as it may, it now devolves upon you to institute such further Legislation, if any be needed, as may be requisite to enable either yourselves or your constituents to promptly improve upon such action as Congress may take in the premises, with the hope ere long we also will be privileged with those Constitutional franchises pertaining to a State Government so justly our due, and for which we have so long and so patiently waited and so loyally petitioned.

In accordance with a requirement in our Constitution, devolving upon me the duty of communicating to you "the condition of the State," I take pleasure in informing you that notwithstanding the great amount and wide-spread extent of losses in hay, grain, roads, bridges, &c., by the unprecedented floods of the past year, still, through the indomitable industry, energy, and perseverance of the people, with the blessings of Heaven upon their labors, our prosperity is cheering to ourselves and a marvel to the temporary sojourner and passing traveler. In addition to a rapid home increase, our population has been swelled the past season by the addition of several thousands immigrating to our peaceful valleys to lend their aid to promote human progress and extend the area of human rights. Our southern settlements have been strengthened by a large addition of efficient settlers, and bid fair to soon supply us with an abundance of cotton and other products of warm climes. Much valuable machinery for manufacturing purposes, especially for the manufacture of wool, was imported during the past season; and it is estimated by good judges that during the same period imported merchandise fell seven tenths below the previous customary amounts. This is certainly very encouraging, and should incite us to renewed efforts for hastening the time of our commercial independence.

Gentlemen:—Tendering you my cordial co-operation in every measure you may deem necessary for promoting the public welfare, and cheerfully proffering such information as I may from time to time deem conducive to aiding you in the performance of your official duties, I invoke upon your acts and deliberations the blessings of Him who ever guideth aright, and in whose hands is the destiny of all nations.

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

[Jan. 19, 1863]